

**FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT
FREMONT BUDGET COMMITTEE
Joint Meeting
January 5, 2008**

APPROVED

Present: Mike Nygren, Superintendent Normand Tanguay, Principal Kelli Killen, Financial Administrator Annmarie Scribner, Peg Pinkham, Budget Committee Chair Charles Kimball, Principal Dawn Lewis, School Board Chair Jeff Rowell, Doug McElroy, Andy Kohlhofer, Technology Coordinator Sonja Gonzalez, and Recording Secretary Kathy Arsenault

Charles Kimball Budget Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Roll call around the table was done.

Pinkham noted to those present that she did contact the School Board regarding the question raised about snowplowing paid by the town. She added that this came up about 3 or 4 years ago and at that time the consensus was it all comes out of taxes. It was stated that we need to be accountable in spending town resources. She continued that we were asked to break it out and make it a part of our (School District) main budget. McElroy suggested creating a line item for this purpose. McElroy's concern would be if we go to a co-op, who would pay for what. Kimball agreed that a line item was a good idea. Pinkham stated it would be wise even if it were for a \$1.00; it would give Guerwood Holmes a year to track the hours performed for the school and come up with a cost. Kohlhofer stated that this seems fair enough. Kimball added that when they voted previously for a co-op with Epping, Holmes would not have done the plowing. He continued it actually would have cost more if the School Board paid private contractors to do it. Holmes makes a pass and opens it up for Fire Dept during storms; it is cheaper for the town to do it this way. Pinkham stated that Holmes could keep track of the hours this year and get a price for us. Kimball stated that should we receive \$10,000 from the school that would show in the town as revenue. Nygren asked if they make a pass to keep it open, do they plow it later. Jeff Rowell replied yes, they make a pass through to open it up and then come back and plow it later.

Motion was made by Pinkham to request the School District to add a line item for snow removal in the amount of \$1.00. Kohlhofer seconded the motion. Majority voted in the affirmative.

1400 - Other Programs

Kohlhofer noted that the set salary between 07 and 08 has more than tripled. Killen stated that there are new teacher contracts and stipends for coaching, drama, etc., that are more in line with neighboring districts. Pinkham asked if they are all contractual. Killen said yes. Kohlhofer noted that the athletic salary tripled, but the extra curricular went down. Killen replied yes, due to after school tutors being moved to 1100 section. They were reclassified. Pinkham asked if she has numbers for participation in these clubs. Killen didn't have firm numbers but stated approximately 20 for soccer, 30 for volleyball (with 2 teams' 6-8th grade). Pinkham said it sounds like a fair participation. Killen said yes, we also had 2 programs for basketball and interscholastic sports. Martel asked when you reclassified the after-school tutors does that remain as a stipend or salary. Killen said they receive no benefits. Kohlhofer asked is FICA taken out. Scribner replied yes, they take out everything. Any teacher that gets paid any money, it has to be taken out. She stated that contracted services though are totally different. McElroy asked about the big jump in program supplies. Killen responded that new programs like literature club and science club were in response to intervention programs. They are new programs to support students in the classroom; we will know better numbers next year, as this is just an estimate.

Kimball asked about teaching golf. Killen said that is one example yes, we received a matching grant which supplied training for the teacher and the equipment. McElroy asked if it was on site. Killen replied the students would learn on site. They perhaps will take a field trip to a golf course. Kohlhofer asked if it includes greens fees. Killen said she was not sure, but what is included is training and equipment for students. There will be no golf carts; the students will be walking.

2110 - Attendance

Tanguay stated that this is consistent with the previously discussed "how to track snow plowing" in that he will keep track of his hours. This is a line item with \$1.00. Pinkham stated that there has been some change in that they have an appointment with Reese Bassett. She continued that they went through the State's recommendation of a Truancy Officer. Reese Bassett is handling that now having experience dealing with children, families and court systems. Kohlhofer asked have we ever asked the PD or Reese to track the hours for this. Kimball stated that we should go to the Chief to get an idea.

2120- Guidance.

Pinkham noted she wanted to point out that the 2.22% increase shown is the adjustments made in that Dept. It is showing less than contractual. Also that the 87.50% increase is from \$800.00 to \$1500. Killen stated assembly programs, the money for those weeks, and the materials have increased. We also have a presenter at \$750 (an outside person) for guidance. We have typically 1 or 2 assembly programs a year. Kimball asked if they ever have military programs come in. Killen replied yes. Kimball stated that military programs encourage students to stay in school. Certain branches of military will put out more to promote the continuance of education. Nygren made reference to a recent article stating benefit increases in June. He questioned the benefit line that refers to an increase in June, but does it reflect that increase. Tanguay replied no, it is current. Nygren asked isn't that rate set. Tanguay replied no. Nygren noted another increase in June, and that there is a formula for increases continuing up until 2010. Tanguay said that he would check into it. Nygren said it would make a difference in the bottom line. Pinkham added that she saw the same article and that it does make a difference. Pinkham added that we are safe in what we have budgeted.

Kohlhofer asked with guidance councilors, what is required by law. Tanguay replied one for every 300 students, adding that we have 546 students as of Jan. 1.

Martel noted that the raises are \$2000 for each person, and it seems like a flat rate. Scribner said she thinks that they are both on a top step. It is \$1000 and \$1000 salary based on salary schedule. Pinkham asked if Scribner could send the salary schedule to us to clarify. Scribner will send that info to the Budget Committee. Tanguay stated that they don't get a step increase. Pinkham said it is a flat amount and a percentage at the top tier. Martel said that it is not a percentage. Nygren stated that typically when you reach the top you get the percentage, is that what they got. Scribner said we use to have 12 steps, and 13 for max. She continued that now we have 14 steps. In negotiations, for the top step we added \$1000, and the next step went up \$2000. Pinkham asked Scribner to get the breakdown. Tanguay stated that it is base increases plus each step. Nygren said that it still doesn't come out right. Scribner stated that it is all part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and that she will get the salary schedules to us. Pinkham stated that we are meeting again on Wednesday. It was determined that Scribner would email the salary schedules on Monday to Pinkham, who would have it for the Budget Committee meeting this Wednesday. It will be discussed the following Wednesday meeting.

Kohlhofer asked about the test scoring services, and are we contracting out. Killen said no. This is for software used to analyze testing scores. She continued, the State pays for a portion of this software, in the future it is possible the State may pick up the whole thing. We will adjust this amount as the state helps us. NWEA test scores are input to this software for comparisons and for evaluation. Seeing where the students are, allows choices for us and they all tie together. Kohlhofer asked what type of periodicals do

you buy. Killen said some are pamphlets, and some are flyers for parents. We were able to get flyers for older kids and magazines for guidance counselors. Killen stated that we provide a lot of information for parents and students to have for certain situations.

2130 - Nursing Services

Kohlhofer asked did you add a half-time nurse. Killen said yes. Kohlhofer asked what is the state requirement for nursing coverage. Killen replied 1 per 600 students. Kimball asked do we have over 600 kids. Killen said no, but we have many students with severe medical needs. Pinkham asked Killen if she could get the videotaped presentation that the nurse gave to the School Board, for the Budget Committee. Pinkham added that we are outside medical compliance. The presentation is to show us how to properly care for the needs and meet the requirements. Pinkham continued that if we share them (and they are very telling) it would help the Budget Committee as well. She stated that statistics are one thing, but seeing it first hand is different. We have a lot of highly medically challenged and in-need-of -support students. Kohlhofer asked exactly what does the nurse do. Killen stated that they monitor for diabetes, (3 students with insulin pumps) and she helps adjust their food intake. We have a lot of students on medications, food allergy students, and students with asthma. She is on the safety team, as well as cares for colds, coughs, and the day in and day out needs. There is a lot of traffic in and out of that office. Her presentation will give you a good example; it is like being in a doctor's office.

Pinkham added that there are field trips where someone has to be there for that support. She continued that one nurse per 600 children sounds out of date for an accurate percentage. Killen added that she provides training to staff for student's conditions, sets up dental programs and health screening, hearing and sight screenings. Kohlhofer asked don't some kids have primary care physicians for that. Killen stated that not everyone does. Martel asked is it required to have a physical to go to school. Killen said no. Kimball asked is a physical required for athletic teams. Killen said yes, absolutely. McElroy asked are you projecting that you are in need of more nursing. Killen replied no, what we have right now is working very well.

2140 - Psychological

Pinkham stated that there was an error on the percentage. Scribner agreed. Kohlhofer asked if services were added between 07 and 08. Nygren stated that it went from 4 days a week went to 5. Lewis stated that these are for additional services that she can't provide. Kohlhofer asked is this for kids without health insurance to provide counseling. Lewis explained that there are limited services with health insurance, and some families are without insurance all together. Lewis continued that there are some families that volunteer to pay and if they can pay for it they will. Pinkham asked if there was any incentive for parents to use their own insurance first and perhaps we could reimburse them their deductible, and is that legal. Lewis explained that she wouldn't recommend covering the deductible. The family coverage is not going to be able to manage the IEP for the individual child. Pinkham stated seeing the difference from 07 and 08 from a budget perspective not from a usage perspective would be helpful. It could be an increase in kids that need services, but not necessarily an increase in money.

Lewis stated that you could make anything a per pupil cost. Tanguay added it is valid and we could justify it if we need to. Pinkham said yes, if we could track that, the Budget Committee doesn't want to just see increases, we want to know why. Martel asked how did you get by without the contracted services last year, it wasn't here for Budget Committee last year. Pinkham said there wasn't money there for it last year, but we had to find it. Kimball noted that there are 2 lines that are for \$1.00. Scribner said that is this year's budget. Kimball asked if they could show what they have spent so far. Scribner said yes. McElroy asked is it possible to put that budget column in there too. Scribner said yes, that is in the financial report. McElroy added it would be easier to show what we did actually spend and why. Kohlhofer asked is psychological services Pre-K – 12. Lewis responded yes, and thru age 21. Kohlhofer asked does the tuition agreement cover this with Sanborn. Lewis said sometimes yes, sometimes no. Sometimes we use our school psychologist because of long history with a student. McElroy asked are we

paying double tuition for these students. Lewis explained the tuition is one thing, but then we have those that go off to high school that still need our services. There situation is different and they need something extra. Pinkham asked other than just general placement. Lewis replied yes, absolutely.

Discussion continued regarding the tuition agreement with Sanborn and how it relates to identifying and servicing students within special education.

Pinkham stated that on behalf of other parents that have spoken to her, they are pleased with how the teams are getting the curriculum aligned and how they support the children. They (Ellis and Sanborn) have a rapport that is trackable and growing. The guidance counselor (from Sanborn) speaks very highly of your (Ellis/Fremont) continuing commitment to them. When we talk about a kid when know the kid and their families. It doesn't happen in your standard school system, but we hear of it happening here. They continue an open, fluid, consistent communication.

Kohlhofer asked with regard to SPED, if we perform state tests and the parents appeal - we then retest, who pays for it. Lewis replied that there is still discussion on who is going to pay for it. She noted that NH has always exceeded what is required. She continued when the new rules come out we will have a better handle on it. It is very situational. Many times the district will pay for it because there has been an error. We try to work it out at the table, but the bottom line is what is best for the child. Kohlhofer asked about cost for site test materials for standardized testing. Lewis explained that every year the cost increases and that protocol changes the materials ever year.

Kimball asked about the new computer line. Lewis stated that the new computer was already purchased and the \$1000 can be taken out. New software was not purchased because they were good with what they had.

2150 - Speech Audiology

Kimball asked about the \$1.00 line item for speech contract services and asked for the actual amount spent on that this year. Scribner will get that number for the committee. Pinkham pointed out that the major increase here is due to the salary part of the contracts. Kohlhofer asked is this for 3 teachers. Lewis stated that 2 meet the needs of K-8 and 1 is for contracted services for the out of district needs ages 18-21. Martel noted there is one open position. Lewis said yes, the budget was built with the great hope that all of the positions would be filled. Nygren asked the cost for contracting the open position. Lewis doesn't know it right off. Nygren asked does it exceed what you anticipated last year. Lewis replied yes, it cost a lot more for contracted services. Kohlhofer stated that the speech and language impaired numbers are way above the average for the state. (Page 34) Pinkham stated that speech is often the secondary challenge in that a lot of times it is categorized under speech. Lewis explained that often speech and language is the precursor to other challenges. At certain ages it is coded as speech and language because that is where it starts and it fluctuates. The numbers continue to change. She stated that they would be adding 1 or 2 traumatic brain injury students in the near future. Nygren asked about student placements and what services do we additionally pick up during the school year for aids or contract services. Lewis explained it comes down to what is in the IEP and where the students go. She continued that one-to-one services are not included in tuition.

2162- Physical Therapy

Nygren asked is FICA correct. The salary is going up, but FICA is going down. Pinkham stated that the number is actually dropping \$15,000. Lewis stated that these contracted services are based on the needs of the students. Kohlhofer asked if the individual health insurance wouldn't pay for it. Lewis explained that health insurance doesn't do a great job paying for this, in fact the insurance company will often recommend to parents to go through the school.

2163 – Occupational Therapy

Nygren questioned why we are paying \$5,600 less for this service next year. Lewis stated that this too is based on the needs of the students. Scribner noted that we budgeted a different level pay rate for a new occupational therapist.

2169 - Vision

Kohlhofer asked if the students have vision care insurance. Lewis replied this isn't for glasses, this is visual perceptual skill. Kohlhofer asked is this for materials and training. Lewis said yes. Kohlhofer asked is it done at home. Lewis said no it is school based. McElroy asked if we are over budgeting. Lewis stated that they have some children coming up and we are preparing for that. She continued that early intervention comes through at the age of 2 ½, so we need to have them in the budget. Pinkham asked could we have a category for projected need. Lewis asked for how many kids are coming up. Pinkham said yes, projecting the number of kids coming up. Scribner said that she could provide this. Pinkham added that it is easier if we see it right then. Rowell stated that it doesn't seem like a whole lot of money for this. Lewis replied that this is for 2 assessments. Kohlhofer asked is it \$300/assessment. Lewis said yes, but that is an estimate.

2210 - Curriculum

Killen stated that this is for course reimbursement and is according to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The in-service workshops are more in line with what was actually spent. Pinkham stated that this is a combination of looking at the Agreement and the actual spending. Kohlhofer asked is the course reimbursement for college courses, tuition, fees and books. Scribner said we pay up to \$475, anything above that we don't. Kohlhofer asked what the staff coordinator does. Killen replied that is a teacher that takes on extra responsibilities while keeping track of teacher's certifications. She continued that right now that position hasn't been filled. We are not quite sure if we need this position in the future. The master plan with state has changed. How the hours are tracked for teachers' certification with the state has changed. She continued that keeping track of everything has now fallen back on the individual. Other things are falling back on the administration. Kohlhofer asked do they still have to file with you. Killen replied yes, the teachers still have to file with the SAU verifying that they have meet criteria for certifications.

Killen stated that our reading is doing well and our test scores reflect that. About 2 years ago we brought in a Tuft's reading consultant. With assessments we are making sure teachers are on task. Kohlhofer asked have you seen an increase in test scores. Killen said yes absolutely. We see it in the NECAP for 6th grade. Nygren asked about the 7th and 8th grade scores for reading and writing. Killen replied that they are not as good, but they have gone up every year. Nygren asked if the teachers that teach this special program, do they have a degree in that specialty, or are we just using staff members. Killen replied that they have to be highly qualified and certified, for K-6. She continued that 7th and 8th have to have a specific certification in language arts. Nygren responded that the question is are they degree certified in reading and writing. Killen replied that 7th and 8th are degree certified. For K-6 they have general certification. We have added in 5th and 6th, they also needed to be highly qualified in language arts specifically.

Kohlhofer asked about professional books and are they specifically for the teachers or the school's need. Killen replied specifically for the teacher. She continued that the teachers use them for a study tool as well.

2220 – Library Media

Martel asked about the Media Specialist FT, and that the salary went down. Killen replied that the Librarian retired and the replacement is someone new. Nygren asked is there no aid this year. Killen replied no, it was part time and the position is being cut.

Kimball questioned the new computers, and new computer equipment. Killen replied that the new library computer equipment is for bar code readers. Nygren asked is a bar code reader being replaced or it is being added. Gonzalez stated that there are 5 student computers that are used quite often and they are looking to add 1 more computer for the students. She continued that the bar code reader is adding a new one. It is actually an upgrade. She stated that the student computers in the library are laptops. There isn't enough room for anything else. Kohlhofer asked could we monitor the access to the Internet. Gonzalez said yes we keep track and there are firewalls filtering it. She stated that we don't have access to see all that they are doing, so the teacher is asked to roam the room.

2225 - Computer Technology

Pinkham noted that we are trying to cut things, but anytime you push off to do until later, 1 or 2 years down the road it will eventually get you. McElroy asked is this for the laptops. Pinkham replied yes. Nygren asked about replacing computer equipment, what are we replacing. Killen replied ½ of the staff laptops and the server. Pinkham pointed out that Peter Bearse wanted this number raised. Nygren asked about the \$8500 cut, that is how many laptops. Gonzalez replied about 8. Nygren asked how old the ones we're replacing are. Gonzalez stated that next year there are 18 that will be 4 years old. Pinkham stated to Nygren that it was determined the other night that we respect both yours and Peter's opinion and that you both should have the right to vote. She continued that we are going to come back next year and say we need double this. Kohlhofer asked how it ties into teaching and what are the laptops used for. Gonzalez replied everything, attendance, grading, communications, Email, research for teaching, NEWA testing of recorded scores, every aspect of their job they use it for. Rowell asked if the results of the pilot program are tracked on the software. Killen said yes, they have created their own; they are consolidating so that it relates to our database.

2310 - School Board

Pinkham noted that the 6.35% reduction is most reflected in the actual expenditures. McElroy asked why is legal up so much. Scribner replied that the teacher's Collective Bargaining Agreement is up next year, and it is due to that. Kimball stated that the co-op planning is down this year. Scribner replied that it was a warrant article last year. Kohlhofer asked about this year. Pinkham said no not for Fremont. Kimball asked could you get us what they spent so far this year. Scribner said yes, she would. Kohlhofer asked about other expenses and what does it cover. Scribner replied Medicaid reimbursement and the \$2000 holiday gift to the staff, appreciation dinners for the staff, etc. Kohlhofer noted that the school board newsletter is up. Pinkham stated last year no one did it, it is a volunteer in the community, the line is for the mailing and postage, the intent was for monthly, right now planning to do it quarterly. Kohlhofer asked about membership & dues. Scribner replied that is for the New Hampshire School Board Assoc. dues.

2320

Martel asked about the percentage increase. Scribner replied the 4.5 % (Page 101 and 70) and the additional \$10,000 is in case we need to upgrade a position. Kohlhofer asked why would you need to upgrade. Tanguay explained that someone could apply to the state for it. He continued that in that case there would be a salary adjustment after evaluating the situation. Kohlhofer stated that the percentage increase is 4.5%, yet average merit increase last year was 2.5%. Tanguay stated that we used a halfway mark, it is not a fixed number, and it is for budget purposes. He continued that the national average is one indicator; the regional is another, as you know.

Kohlhofer asked about the health insurance, are they buying the same as the teachers. Scribner said yes. Kimball asked is this number for 2 people? Scribner replied no, just 1. Nygren noted that last year was a 10% increase. Scribner said yes, different types of plans, Single, 2 Person or Family. Martel asked how much does the staff contribute. Scribner replied 89%.

Kimball was concerned with what we pay for life and health insurance. He noted that with all the benefits, we pay quite a bit. He continued that the school board should start cutting the benefits. Scribner replied that the employees did give back 1% each year. Kimball said we should still cut back. Kohlhofer stated that the premiums are high. Scribner and Pinkham agreed. Nygren stated that either we pay it or we risk a strike. Pinkham said that's right, it is union. When you bargain with a particular company and they choose a particular company, then that is what we are required to pay. The private industry is different. Nygren asked are we obligated to keep the same plan. Martel questioned could we change the plan. Tanguay replied going into negotiations sessions we try to get more because some plans look more attractive than others do. Nygren stated, but when it becomes punitive it no longer survives, it just becomes poor. He continued that we need to make a conscious effort to say that this is the best that we can afford. Pinkham agreed. Nygren said it is an awful burden to keep expecting this from the town. Tanguay added that it is in negotiations. Nygren stated you could negotiate to pay the deductible, paying less for the insurance. Pinkham asked to make note of this question for the next negotiation team to consider.

***Can the School District, in the next negotiation with teachers, look into changing Insurance plans or consider paying the deductibles and in turn less for the insurance. ***

(Page 71)

Kohlhofer stated that he has concern for the rent, which there was no request for, and suddenly we had a \$22000 expense. He questioned where did the money come from. Suddenly \$22000 comes out of nowhere for the year. Tanguay replied stating that we were not considering that change during the budget procedures. With Kindergarten, Gifted & Talented, principals sharing 1 office, we considered using a portable, but the cost was the same, factoring all that in it was reasonable to consider going off site. Plus the building was available at \$10/sq ft. Kimball asked are you keeping this on a yearly basis. Tanguay said yes. Pinkham added that we were skating the areas of confidentiality due to the space constraints. Nygren asked if the phone costs were from cell phones. Tanguay said no. Nygren asked now that the office is recently furnished, are you going to keep that line and does it include supplies. Scribner replied yes it includes supplies. Scribner continued that after the 1st year, we will know what to expect and then we can adjust. Kohlhofer stated that we added Gifted and Talented and we had no place to put it. Tanguay stated that we did add it and we will have to comply with it. McElroy said it came from the floor. Pinkham stated that people felt it was generated underhandedly and that was not the case. Kohlhofer asked are we obligated to spend that money. Pinkham said yes we are, unless people want it off the budget. Kohlhofer stated that in talking about space we can't keep adding programs if there is no place to put them, over long terms it becomes major capital expenses. Pinkham said even if we remove some programs, we are still over capacity. She continued we are not accommodating even for this year's need, we are certainly not building for the future. Rowell stated that the original building plan was a lot larger. Pinkham said yes by 5 rooms, that's huge. Kohlhofer asked with the number of students we have, are there problems with the septic. Rowell replied it's not a problem right now, but it could be in the future.

2330 – Special Education Administration

Kimball asked is this line new. Lewis replied no, but under salaries we added the coordinators together. Martel asked where this person before was. Nygren stated it was administrative. Lewis added she believed it was under line 1200.

Pinkham asked about the total salary increases and are they all reflected in the numbers given. Scribner stated we haven't said it will be 1100 or 1200. Pinkham said we have a lot of salaries to go through, do we have a total salary line and total salary increase. Scribner stated that on Page 92 you will see it there, and also on Page 18. Tanguay added that both Page 18 and Page 92 actually show a decrease. Pinkham noted that the contracts have an increase in salary, but we are still overall showing a decrease. She

continued that we are feeling the impact here and we are reflecting that. We are making cuts and at the same time we are trying to hold to a budget that the people can support. Although it all hasn't been decided on, we are making cuts and asking people to do more than they are doing. She stated that we are keeping it in line with what we feel can be supported. Pinkham stated that the Board came to a consensus that they were open to leaving the announcement of positions to a later time and this was acceptable. Pinkham reminded that this has been discussed and decided upon.

Tanguay stated that 3.5 people are being cut on Page 92. He continued that after you give us a number and we do it again, it could change. Nygren asked so some of it reflects new employees, not additional employees. He continued that it would affect projecting school budget salaries, if we lost 10 at the top and hired 10 and a lower step. Tanguay stated that we haven't introduced that at all. If a top teacher retires, we try to hire at a lower step. Nygren said this year if you hired 10 new teachers, somewhere that \$100,000 has to come back through the budget, and we need an explanation. Tanguay replied that we could show you the staff turnover; we have that number and can give that number to you. We can tell you how many have left. Tanguay said your point is well taken. In some districts it can be a lot of money. Nygren stated that somewhere along that line the money is being spent. Tanguay continued that it goes into how you budget, most are estimates, but we would rather be honest with the Budget Committee. Sometimes priorities changes or other budgets are under funded, but it is administered honestly and fairly. Tanguay continued that we need some sort of a cushion, we can not go down to the last dollar. Special Education and enrollment can not be predicted. We are comfortable with what we are presenting. Kimball agreed stating that a family could move into Fremont with 4 special education students, and you couldn't predict that.

2400 - School Administration

Pinkham asked are increases based on the previous year's vote and a flat percentage of 3%. Scribner stated the first is the principals and they fall under the superintendent's review. The 2nd are the secretaries. She continued that any increases would be in a warrant article. Martel asked who would be in a warrant article. Scribner replied support staff. Tanguay added that negotiations are all done, Monday it goes to the union, and Tuesday it goes before the School Board.

McElroy noted that the maintenance agreement shows a large increase. Scribner stated that this number is for the actual maintenance agreement; we just under budgeted this year. Kohlhofer asked about the phone lines. Killen explained that part of that is; regular telephone use, phone system maintenance agreement, fax lines, and the \$2000 Alert-Now System. Kohlhofer asked is that like a reverse 911. Killen said yes, it calls for delayed openings, school closings, emergencies, etc. It sends this to all parents simultaneously, through Verizon. Killen added that this is not the Internet; Comcast gives us the Internet for free.

Rowell stated that he believes the reimbursement rate for mileage is increasing. Pinkham agreed, believing that it is going up to .485 or .510. She believed it was going up next August. Scribner noted that these numbers (in the budget) are based on .445 for mileage reimbursement.

Killen continued that the phone system is 4 years old now. Martel asked is it not covered under a maintenance agreement. Killen said no, they are special phones. Even if we don't add more phones, we add more voicemails. She continued that the intercom system needs to be replaced, especially in the classrooms. Kohlhofer asked doesn't each classroom have intercom in the phone. Killen stated that we had hoped to not have the intercom and the phone lines, but it didn't work to what our intent was. We tried to make that happen, but the teachers couldn't hear the intercom in the classroom through the phone.

Kimball stated that there is a big increase in the furniture line. Killen said yes, the desks were held up with wire and duct tape. McElroy asked didn't we cut this line last year. Killen replied yes. Kimball asked about the replacement for computers. Killen said yes, that is an upgrade for office equipment that

the secretaries use; their equipment is 5 years old. They need updated computers to run the software and have compatibility for the student database, and connections with the State Dept. She continued that the 1800 is for 2 new computers. Killen added that this is just for the CPU, not the monitors or the keyboards.

2600 – Operation of Plant

Discussed previously. Kohlhofer wanted a list of repairs from Scott Brown. Scribner will get this information.

2700 - Transportation

Kimball asked if high school students pay any part of that. Pinkham stated no, years ago when people opted not go to the high school that we had a contract with, they paid for the transportation. Kimball stated that is something to be looked into for high school students. Kimball continued that at one time they did pay part of the buses; we should look into it unless it was a hardship. McElroy believed that was done before with Epping too. Pinkham stated that was not the contracted school, it was a school of choice. Pinkham questioned are you asking the Budget Committee its consensus on this. Kimball said no I am asking the School Board to find a way of reducing the school budget and that is one way to do it. Pinkham noted that she would vote against it. Kimball said I just want to know if it can be done. Pinkham asked does the Budget Committee want me to bring this before the School Board. Kimball said I don't think it is unreasonable. Tanguay added it is not unheard of. He continued that NH is the only state that mandates transportation has to be provided. Pinkham said that we are a secondary highway state; that does mandate transportation, actually doorway transportation. Kimball said I am talking about high school, not elementary school. Kohlhofer said by doing that you are simply transferring the cost; the consensus will be whether you want to transfer some of the burden.

Nygren said that Martel had asked earlier about the \$2000. Scribner said that is for all top step people. Nygren said we are under the impression that it is 5% of their top step, but this is a flat \$2000 increase. He continued and asked when they were hired were there 10 or 12 steps, and were steps added after their hiring. Scribner said there was 12 steps, plus a longevity step. The new contract has 14 steps; for step 13, gives all \$1000 and step 14, gives all another \$1000. Nygren said that wasn't answered that way earlier. Martel agreed, stating it wasn't explained that way, you (Scribner) said you had to get the salary schedule.

2900 – Support Benefits

5100 – Debt Services

2100 – Food Services

Martel requested the year-to-date expenditure report. Scribner said yes, and will have it available on Tuesday. Kohlhofer asked for a list of teachers' salary and what steps they were on. Scribner said she would get that.

Pinkham stated that she shared via email that we were looking to make cuts. She stated that she shared that with the School Board and with the Budget Committee. She continued that she would have Scribner send the Budget Committee the original request, so that they can see the cuts and have insight. You have to give us direction with the line items. Kohlhofer stated that there is still a 4.9% increase, you may have cut, but you just didn't cut it as much. Pinkham stated you may say we didn't cut anything, but remember that some things are contractual. Kohlhofer said that perhaps we should say that we can't afford the contracts. Martel stated I can't see asking parents to pay for transportation when they are getting raises like that. Kimball stated that he wants to see when we increase or decrease something. It makes it easier for next year, and helps in making decisions. Martel noted that Pinkham would have Scribner send the

email with that information, and perhaps next year we could have 3 columns. Pinkham stated that it also about what the contracts dictate. She continued that every year we are making cuts and it gets tighter and tighter. Kimball said that at town meeting the town could refuse these big pay raises, he noted they start adding up quite fast with these salaries.

With nothing further to come before the Committee, Tanguay thanked the Budget Committee for their time and for the atmosphere being friendly and positive. The Budget Committee thanked the School Board as well.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pinkham and seconded by McElroy. The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Arsenault
Recording Secretary